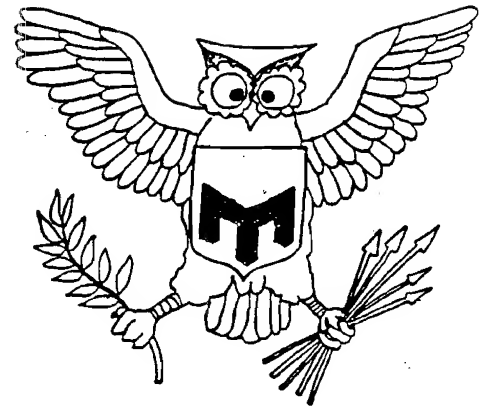


DIPLOMAG

This is the bimonthly newsletter of the American Mensa Postal Diplomacy SIG, bringing hobby and SIG news to Mensans interested in Postal Diplomacy and related events. The SIG arranges postal games for its members, including first games for neVICES. For SIG game openings, contact the Chairman. As each 7-player game list is filled, the game will be "farmed out" to a Mensa GM. Membership dues are \$5.00 per year, or two years for \$9.00. Diplomacy is a board game copyrighted in the U.S.A. by The Avalon Hill Game Co. of Baltimore, Maryland. Any opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of American Mensa, Ltd.



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Whole No. 105

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ONLY ONE CANDIDATE FOR SR. COMMITTEEMAN.

Kate Robison has announced that her "hat is in the ring" for re-election to the Committeeman post. Another party had expressed an interest in running for office many moons ago, but I did not hear from him, even though I waited until May 5th to close the nominations. I know that the mails from some areas have been delayed, and wanted to give everyone the benefit of the doubt.

So, unless there's a sudden change of events, Kate will be re-elected to her post by acclamation, and we won't have to hold a formal election.

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HOBBY AWARDS BALLOT ENCLOSED

You will find your ballot, with complete instructions, enclosed. As in previous years, these nominations are for services/activities performed in 1991, and the winners will receive engraved plaques to commemorate their selections. In addition, each winner will have his name added to the large Perpetual Plaques for the various awards, and, if they wish, they may have a loan of the larger plaques for their homes or offices for the next nine months. These brass and wooden plaques are somewhat expensive, which is why every voter is asked to make a small donation, like one dollar, with each ballot.

Since I am the Treasurer for the Awards Committee, and participated in the preliminary voting to round down the nominations to five names for each category, I feel that I ought to bring you some further information on these nominations.

First, under the Don Miller Award, the nomination for Cal White also included for his service in hosting DipCon XXIV in Toronto in August, 1991. And, under the Melinda Holley Award, the Phil Reynolds nomination ought to mention that Phil also produces PONTEVEDRIA, a monthly Games Opening flyer.

(more)

Regarding the Rod Walker Literary Award, there were originally nine nominations. Two of these appeared in DIPLOMACY WORLD under the nom de plume of "Gen. John McCausland." In my personal opinion, one of these, "The Importance of Being Belgium," ought to have made the Final Five. However, when the author was advised, via David Hood, that if he won he'd have to disclose his identity, McCausland requested that his nominations be withdrawn. To make a long story short, the McCausland articles did not make the cut, although the Committee did not formally rule that they could not appear. I'm sorry things worked out that way, although it is my personal opinion that the Awards Committee should not present plaques to anonymous writers. The Committee will probably take a vote next year on what to do in the case of anonymous nominees.

Anyway, please vote on the Awards as soon as possible. You may omit any category with which you may be unfamiliar. I believe everyone can cast a knowledgable vote in the Miller Award category for meritorious service to the hobby.

* * * * *

LAST CHANCE FOR CLASSIC CANADIAN SETS

GAMES BY MAIL has resumed operations from Ottawa. Andrew Webber advises: "We have found a few (8) copies of ((the old Waddington box)) in the blue 11 x 14" box.... This still includes wooden pieces and the same C.S. Hammond map. These copies are new, still shrinkwrapped, and the price is \$60. Canadians pay in C\$, all others in US\$. Postage is paid to anywhere in the world."

So, if you still want a classic Diplomacy set for your collections, contact Andrew at: Games By Mail, P.O. Box 8676, Sta. "T," Ottawa, Ont. K1G 3J1, CANADA. The price difference for Americans is due to the vastly increased cost of mailing items from Canada to the U.S.

Andrew further advises that Avalon Hill does plan to release the Deluxe Diplomacy set in Canada later this year, with a price somewhere between C\$50-\$60. He doesn't say whether the current A-H set is currently available in Canada, but I've asked a couple of other people to please check on that.

* * * * *

DEADLINE APPROACHES FOR ZINE ENCYCLOPEDIA REVIEWS

Ron Meinel has reminded me that June 15th is supposed to be the deadline for "narrative reviews" of Postal Diplomacy zines for the Encyclopedia. A lot of zines have not yet been reviewed. It is suggested that every publisher write a brief review of his own zine, to make sure there is something to say for all current publications. As for the older zines, many of we Old Timers are racking our memory banks for comments on those which are gone but ought not to be forgotten. I've written about 20.

If you feel like saying anything about any Dipzine past or present, send your review to Jim at: 2801 Pelican Dr., Anchorage, Alaska 99515. Reviews between 50 and 200 words preferred, but you can make yours shorter or longer. If possible, please try to include the starting and ending dates for a zine, the last issue number, and the city and state (or province) of the publisher.

The Encyclopedia of Zines is scheduled for publication in July 1992. There will be blurbs here and elsewhere in the hobby press on its cost. This will be a valuable addition to everyone's Diplomacy files.

* * * * *

NAME: _____

HOBBY ROLE: _____

INSTRUCTIONS: Vote for one choice only in each category. The above ID portion MUST be completed. Please help by sending a small donation with your selections. RECEIPT DEADLINE IS JUNE 15, 1992! ! !

1992 DON MILLER AWARD

For service to the hobby:

____ JOHN BOARDMAN: Publishing 600 issues of GRAUSTARK, Oldest active 'zine
 ____ ERIC BROSIUS: Runestone Poll Coordinator
 ____ VINCE LUTTERBIE: Orphan Games past Coordinator and BNC assistance
 ____ ERIC OZOG: Orphan Games Coordinator
 ____ CAL WHITE: CDO Coordinator, Publishing NORTHERN FLAME

1992 JOHN KONING AWARD

For outstanding play of Diplomacy:

____ GARY BEHNEN: DIPCON '91 Winner, PBM wins as all 7 powers
 ____ MELINDA HOLLEY: All around play
 ____ BRUCE REIFF: DIP Champ @ AVALONCON
 ____ MARK STEGEMAN: 1st 2 time DIXIECON Winner
 ____ ERIC YOUNG: Superb stand-by play in DIPADEEDOODAH'S "European Legacy"

1992 MELINDA ANN HOLLEY AWARD

For quantity participation in the hobby:

____ JASON BERGMANN: Multitude of games both FTF & PBM
 ____ KATHY CARUSO: Consistent & excellent stand-by play
 ____ MELODY LUTTERBIE: Excellent press writing
 ____ PHIL REYNOLDS: Multitude of games played
 ____ JOHN SCHULTZ: Multitude of games played

1992 ROD WALKER AWARD

For literary excellence:

____ ALAN LEVIN: "THE EMPIRE ON THE NEVA" CAVEAT EMPTOR # 15
 ____ BUZ EDDY: "THE DIPLOMACY BOARD AS AN IMPERFECT MIRROR" PENGUIN DIP # 48
 ____ GARRET SCHENCK: ZINE REGISTER # 19
 ____ CONRAD VON METZKE/JIM BURGESS: "REMOVING THE OFFENSIVE SIDE" DIPLOMACY WORLD # 62
 ____ ERIC VOOGD: "REFLECTIONS ON A YEAR IN THE HOBBY" PENGUIN DIP # 49

* Return Ballots to: RON CAMERON, 14790 Amorose, Lake Elsinore, CA, 92530*

PLEASE VOTE EARLY. Deadline is June 15, 1992! Publishers are encouraged (begged) to reprint this ballot in their next issue. Should anyone wish to receive a copy of the articles nominated for the Walker Award, send \$2.00 with your request to RON CAMERON, address above. Winners receive nice wood plaques, beautifully engraved. This COSTS MONEY, so it would be really appreciated if you'd accompany your vote with a donation.

This will be my third, and last, year as Hobby Awards Custodian. I've liked the job, but it's time to pass it on. David McCrumb will be taking on after DIPCON. I wish him all the best; I've already received several compliments on this selection. The committee this year also helped me enormously. I sincerely thank this excellent representation of our hobby---Robert Acheson, Gary Behnen, Fred Davis, David McCrumb, Cathy Ozog, Garret Schenck, Brad Wilson, and W. Andrew York. Names of all contributors, voters, and donators will be read aloud at DIPCON, July 3-6 in Kansas City. Amounts and voter selection are kept strictly confidential, as are the total tallies of the winners. Hobby Awards has been a tradition for many years---please support them....then come to DIPCON and see the plaques and most of all HAVE FUN!!!!

RON CAMERON HOBBY AWARDS COORDINATOR

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

We've prepared a new SIG Membership List, as of 5-1-92. Our membership was down to 52 as of that date. I'll be sending copies to all Officers and Publishers, as well as to our new members. If anyone else would like a copy, just send me a SASE and a request.

We gained two new members and a subscriber in the past eight weeks. One new member, Matt Schonlau, is a graduate student with "No fixed address." I'm hoping to receive a new address for him shortly, so I'm not printing one here or on the Membership List. Matt is currently residing in Canada, but may be going back to Germany shortly. The second new member is currently processing his Mensa membership, but has already joined our SIG. He is: Jon Rosenthal, 35 Mayer Dr., Suffern, N.Y. 10901. Our subber is Ken Marcinonis of Brook Park, Ohio, who has also signed up as a Standby in the Atlantica IV game. I'll see if I can persuade Ken to join Mensa.

→ The following M's will have their dues expire in June 1992. I know you'll all want to rejoin, right?: Lincoln Beaumont, George Kilmer, Bruce Poppe and Tim Shaw. Please don't put this aside. Please send me a five-dollar bill or a check for \$9.00 (for two years membership) right away. Thankyou.

* * * * *

REMINDER ITEMS

I still have copies of SUPERNOVA, the Novice's Handbook, available for sale to Mensans for just \$1.00. This 36-page booklet tells you almost everything you need to know to play Diplomacy by mail. If you are not a SIG member, you're supposed to order your copies from Bruce Reiff, 2207 Smokey View Blvd., Powell, Ohio 43065. Despite rumors that Bruce had "dropped out of the hobby," I've been assured by a phone call that Reiff will still sell SUPERNOVAs to anyone who requests one. I think his price is \$2.00. Sorry, but I can't supply them at my rate to anyone but Mensans.

I also still can offer copies of The Game of Diplomacy, Richard Sharp's 154-page book on the game. The price is \$6.00 in the U.S., \$6.50 in Canada, or \$8.00 elsewhere. I can sell the book to any resident of the Western Hemisphere or the Pacific Rim. Anyone else will have to order it directly from Sharp in the U.K. You get 77 sheets, with two pages of the book on each sheet, plus a full-size photocopy of the dust cover. This is a detailed analysis of the game, with a separate chapter on each country, plus chapters on Postal play and Variants.

* * * * *

MAP TACK UPDATE. I've just discovered that the Office Depot does carry map tacks in all of the traditional Diplomacy colors. Instead of putting them in a logical spot, our outlet has placed them with their selection of road maps. Maybe that is a logical spot, for people who may want to cut up the maps and hang them on office walls. These are no longer "Moore's tacks," and I did not see any with scores or dots on their heads, but they are still available. Thankyou, world.

* * * * *

You may be interested in reading the End-game statements in THE GENERAL, issues 27-4 and 27-5, concerning the Diplomacy game which was reprinted in full in a recent issue of the Avalon Hill magazine. Editor Rex Martin was one of the players in that game. Sometimes copies of THE GENERAL are on sale in game and hobby shops. If you don't see any, ask the manager if they carry it.

* * * * *

MARCO POLL LEADERS

38 votes were cast in the 1992 Marco Poll. One good thing about this Poll is that no negative votes can be cast, so this shows us which zines are the most liked. The Top Ten finishers this year are:

		Score	1991 Runestone Poll (Finish)
1. Maniac's Paradise	Doug Kent	63	7
2. Upstart	Garret Schenck	56	4
3. Kathy's Korner	Kathy Caruso	33	6
4T. Diplomacy World	David Hood	29	8
4T. Northern Flame	Cal White	29	1
5. Cheesecake	Andy Lischett	28	11
6. Yr Zine of Zines	Kent & McHugh	23	-
7. The Home Office	Fred Hyatt	22	24
8. Hoodwink	Stven Carlberg	21	14
9. Ramblings by Moonlgt	Eric Ozog	18	21
10. Crimson Sky	Mike Gonsalves	15	43

The Poll was run in Pete Gaughan's PERELANDRA. Hence, that zine, which finished second on the '91 Runestone Poll, was declared ineligible for the Marco Poll voting. Had PERELANDRA been eligible, I'm sure it would have finished in the Top Five. Next year, Pete is going to allow us to vote for our Top Ten favorite zines, instead of just the Top Five. I'm glad of this, as I had seven zines I very much wanted to vote for.

My Top Five would have been similar to those shown here (with NF first and DW second), except that CAROLINA COMMAND replaced KK. (CC tied for 11th place).

* * * * *

DON'T FORGET that if you want to donate something to the 1992 Diplomacy Auction, now is the time to make this known. Just write a note to this year's PDORA Custodian, Doug Kent, 54 W. Cherry St., #211, Rahway, N.J. 07065, and describe what you have to offer. It can be almost anything related to Diplomacy or other games, or memorabilia, or just plain junk. Of course, it must be mailable (except for game openings), but don't send anything to Doug. You keep it until you receive the name & address of the winning bidder, and then you dump it on him. Now's the time to empty your attic!

* * * * *

CHANGE IN CUSTODIANSHIP. The International Subscription Exchange (U.S. Branch) is now being run by: Pete Gaughan, 1521 S. Novato Blvd., Novato, CA. 94947. If you want to sub to a British or Australian zine, contact Pete. You can send him a check for a round number of dollars (say \$10.00), and he'll arrange for this to get you X number of copies of a zine in which you express interest.

* * * * *

THE DE LUXE DIPLOMACY SETS (with real Wooden Pieces) will not be ready in time for DipCon this summer. However, attendees will have the opportunity to furnish their own input into what this set should contain when they meet with Rex Martin, who will be a guest speaker at DipCon. If you'd like to make any suggestions (e.g. more English fleet pieces, an improved map, etc.), this is your chance to sound off. The new sets ought to be on sale before Christmas. My own suggestion is to add Supply Center ownership cards, such as are used in Risk and Monopoly, to keep track of who owns what.

* * * * *

MENSA #37 Flap Generates First Ombudsman's Decision (1991 AP)

The problem here was the use of a replacement player, Jim Loughran, for Italy, in the Fall 1902 moves, without giving other players a chance to negotiate with him. When David Lankford NMR'd, GM Dennis Klein asked Charles Byrne to submit orders for Italy. Charles was unable to do so, but suggested his friend, Jim Loughran, instead. One of the other players, Jim Lewis, who is playing Austria, filed a complaint because he felt it was vital for Austria to be able to negotiate with Italy.

Our Ombudsman, Bill Young (who now wishes his name made public), rendered a decision on March 26, 1992, suggesting that the GM redo the Fall 1902 moves without using the new Italian orders. He observed that this Italian "NMR" would not affect the final Supply Center count for either Austria or Italy. Loughran would then be permitted to enter the game beginning with the Winter 1902 adjustments.

Bill also requested that "an abstract of this opinion should be printed in DIPLOMAG so all SIG members may see and comment on it. I will heed and welcome others' opinions."

Mensa players are reminded that the first step of appeal is through your own GM. We hope this does not become a regular thing, but if you are unable to reach a satisfactory agreement with your GM, you may then contact the SIG's Ombudsman. He is: Bill Young, 507 N. Spruce St., Ebensburg, PA. 15931. Ph: (814) 472-2306.

→ A major problem has now arisen in that no one has heard a word from Dennis Klein since this decision was issued. Dennis has not responded to my mail and telephone contacts. I've only gotten his answering machine when I called. Bill Young and one of the players have advised me that they haven't heard from Dennis, either. Now, I know that Dennis was involved in the Income Tax season, being a CPA, and I also know his office is in the Chicago Loop, so he may have gotten caught in the Flood, but I'm getting very concerned. I'm going to ask each of the players in Mensa #37: Jim Lewis, Eric Young, Ken Henke, Victor Stevke, Jim Loughran, Jim Grose, and the Russian standby, Andy York, whether they wish to have this game transferred to another Mensa zine. (Robert Strumwasser, who was playing Russia, has NMR'd and dropped out of the SIG). I've asked Ralph Baty to find a home for this game in BATYVILLE GAZETTE if it has to be transferred. Please send me a postcard or give me a ring ASAP. Just say "Yes" if you agree to the transfer.

The Fall 1902 moves would be re-adjudicated without the Italian orders, and the Russian NMR would have to stand. Play would resume with Winter 1902, which, under the circumstances, would probably be played separately.

* * * * *

DISPATCHES FROM THE FRONT - THE MENSA GAMES

MENSA #30, 1989 Y. GM: John D. Galt, THE ASSASSIN'S BLADE

This game was delayed when the GM was advised that it had been unnecessary for the German A Silesia to be removed in Winter 1910. Since no one else had moved to Sil, the Spring 1911 orders were allowed to stand, but the Fall 1911 orders were postponed to allow anyone who wished to revise them to do so. The four-way Draw proposal was defeated. (German A Sil was put back on the board, but required to Hold). There is a tie here between France (Ralph Baty) and Turkey (Kate Robison), who both own 11 SC's. As I type this, I'm still waiting for the Fall 1911 report.

MENSA #33, 1990 HT. GM: Eric Young, THE TACTFUL ASSASSIN

In Fall 1909, Germany (Mike Morris) added Marseille to the Reich, going up to 9 Centers. France (Michael McCabe) gained Trieste at the same time she lost Mars, so she stood pat with 5. Russia (Peter Kohnke) lost Sev to Turkey and had his A in Vienna annihilated, so he has lost the lead with a drop to 8 SC's. Turkey (Andy York) gained Sev from Russia but lost Greece to Austria, in a sort of merry-go-round, to remain with 6. Likewise, Peter Fuchs' Austria gained Greece but lost Trieste, to stand pat with 6. The 3-way Draw proposal G-R-T failed. The P.O. seems to have lost the Spring 1910 report.

MENSA #35, 1991 A. GM: Andy York, RAMBLING WAY

RAMBLING WAY has monthly deadlines, and is the most regular and on-time publication in the SIG. Recommended. As of Fall 1906, France (Mark Hight) had added Munich & Tunis to his Empire, for a total of 13 Centers. He had passed through Rome without stopping in the Fall, but in Spring '07 the French have reoccupied the Eternal City. Italy (Kevin Kinsel) had survived Winter '06 with Rome & Venice, and has now moved a F to Piedmont in an attempt to survive. Second place Russia (Peter Kohnke) wiped out Germany in F 1906 by taking Kiel & Berlin, while losing Rumania to Turkey. He owned 9 Centers (+1). In Spring he had A's in Bohemia & Galicia, but was rebuffed in an attempt to take Bud. Stora Harris resigned from this game and has left the hobby. Jim Lewis has taken over the Austrian position, with 4 units. His Serbian A has just been dislodged by the Turks. Turkey (Jim Grose) gained Rum and lost Tunis in 1906 to stay even with 6, and has now advanced into Serbia in the Spring. Proposals for Draws and a French Win are offered.

MENSA #36, BN ? GM: Tony Dousette, THE CONTINUAL CRISIS

This zine is now operating on 5-week deadlines, to speed things up a bit. There's been a communications breakdown with the BNC, so still no Number for this game. Winter 1903 was played separately. Two players submitted their orders after the deadline, which caused them to be rated "NMR," but they'll be given another chance to submit Spring '04 orders next time. Anyway, Turkey (Ram Avrahami) was devastated in Fall 1903, losing Smyrna, Bul, Greece & Rumania, dropping from 6 units to 2. Austria (Andy York) picked up three of these Centers to rise from 4 to 7. Italy (Jeff Eide) gained Smyrna & Berlin but lost Munich, to go up one to 6. France (David Hood) added Munich & Spain, and now leads the pack with 8 SC's. Germany (James Allen) fell to 4 with the loss of Denmark & Berlin, but added Liverpool. Russia (Eric Young) recaptured St. Pete from Germany, but lost Sweden to the expatriate English (Jim Lewis) (2 units, no Home Centers).

MENSA #38, Awaiting BN. GM: Craig A. Reges, AGAINST THE ODDS

England (Peter Palumbo) moved a F into the Channel in Spring 01, and has convoyed an A into Picardy in the Fall. France (Andrew Cohen) had a classic standoff in Burgundy with Germany, and then moved to Brest in Fall, expecting the English to land there. France did take both Iberian SC's, however. Germany (Mike Morris) abandoned Burgundy to take Belgium & Denmark. Austria (Jim Lewis) and Russia (Stephen Gaddy) worked in tandem in the Balkans, Russia taking Bul and Austria Serbia & Rumania. Austria also tried to take Venice from Italy (James Tarsi) in both Spring & Fall, but was stood off both times. The Turkish F Black Sea was kept out of Bul, but Sig Street did occupy Greece. Every neutral except Holland has now fallen. Four Powers got two builds each, while England, Italy and Turkey gained one each.

MENSA #39. GM: Stephen Glasgow, WAR FAIR

The seven starting players are: Julien Beasley, Dennis Klein, Jim Lewis, Mike Morris, Tim O'Hare, Matt Schonlau and Cliff Woodhall, all of whom are Mensans. The country assignments will be made on May 15th.

We're now taking names for Mensa #40, which will be run by Eric Young in THE TACTFUL ASSASSIN. Two players are currently signed up.

* * * * *

SEPARATION OF SEASONS REQUESTED.

		Current Strength
ENGLAND (B.Young):	Had 1 unit annihilated, so no change.	8 (-1)
FRANCE (Schultz):	Remove F Tuscany.	0 (-1), OUT
GERMANY (Eide):	No change.	5 (—)
ITALY (B.Johnson):	Build A Venice, F Naples.	11 (+2)
CANADA (Chang):	No change.	7 (—)
MEXICO (R.Brown):	A Texas (R) High Plains. Build A Tampico.	8 (+1)
U.S.A. (York):	F Port (R) Spain(sc). Remove F L.I.S.	15 (-1)

MAY 1871

Note: Canadian orders arrived one day too late to be used, but Chang is not charged with an NMR. We now have a new Standby player, Ken Marcinonis, 6330 Smith Rd., Brook Park, Ohio 44142, so we're breathing easier on the NMR situation.

PRESS:

DECEASED FRANCE to GM: I enjoyed myself ... for a minute. But, you say France is out!! France is never OUT!! France will live forever in the hearts of the French people.

DEADLINE for JULY 1871 (Spring) will be TUESDAY, June 9, 1992. Telephone deadline will be Monday, June 8th, at 9:00 p.m. Eastern Time.

* * * * *

Here's the Final Report on Mensa #34, 1990 IO, GM'd by Ralph Baty in BATYVILLE GAZETTE:

GAME SUMMARY (Mensa 34)									
	01	02	03	04	05	06	07		
A	3	1	0	out				6th - tie	Andy York
E	4	6	6	6	7	8	10	Winner: 3-Way Draw	Glenn Freund
F	6	7	8	9	11	13	12	Winner: 3-Way Draw	Ben Grant
G	5	2	0	out				6th - tie	Sig Street
I	5	4	4	2	2	1	0	out 4th	Lincoln Beaumont
R	5	8	9	8	3	0	out	5th	Gloria Lloyd/Mike Burchianti
T	4	6	7	9	11	12	12	Winner: 3-Way Draw	Imad Libbus

Gloria Lloyd resigned in F 03. Mike Burchianti took over Russia in S 04.

* * * * *

HERE ARE SOME MORE CONVENTIONS

DipCon XXV: Kansas City, Mo., July 3-5. Preregistration is \$25 thru May 31st, \$30 if you register between June 1-July 2, or \$35 at the door. Contact person is: Gary Behnen, 13101 S. Trenton, Olathe, Kansas 66062. Rooms are available at the Howard Johnson's in Lenexa, Mo. @ \$38. per night. This is the actual site of the Con. Shuttle bus from the airport to H-J's is available for only \$3.00.

AtlantiCon '92: Also the weekend of July 3-5, on the campus of the U. of Maryland, College Park, Md. Registration is \$16 before June 16th; \$22 after that. Campus Housing is available for two nights for \$115., or three nights for \$172.50. In addition to the Dip Tournament to be run by Robert Sacks, the New York Games Board will also offer sections of Pax Britannica, Kingmaker, Republic of Rome, and the Dip Variant, Balkan Wars VI (GM'd by Brad Wilson). To obtain a flyer on which to register for the various games, write to: Atlanticon '92, PO Box 91, Beltsville, Md. 20704. Or, you can send a registration check to them now. Several game companies will have exhibition booths at Atlanticon. (Dip Fee is \$4.00).

CONVENTION NEWS (Cont.)

PeeriCon: July 24-26, at Larry Peery's mansion in San Diego, CA. For details, write to Peery at: P.O. Box 620 399, San Diego, CA. 92162. Ph: (619) 582-2904.

PacifiCon: September 5-7 (Labor Day weekend), San Mateo, CA. Contact person is: Don Del Grande, 142 Eliseo Dr., Greenbrae, CA. 94904. Don will GM the Dip Tourney. PacifiCon plans to bid for the 1993 DipCon, so this might be a chance to check it out in advance. San Mateo is just south of San Francisco.

AvalonCon II: July 30-August 2, in Camp Hill, PA. (right across the river from Harrisburg). Almost every Avalon Hill game will be played, including Dip. There's a flat Registration Fee of \$25, and no event fees for the various games. There is no charge for non-players, so you could bring your spouse or significant other along as an observer or good-luck charm. Register through: The Avalon Hill Game Co., 4517 Harford Rd., Baltimore, Md. 21214. Ph: (410) 254-9200. Rooms available at the Penn Harris @ \$60/night (up to four in a room), by phoning them at (800) 345-7366 Toll Free. You must use any major credit card to guarantee your reservation.

* * * * *

ON A PERSONAL NOTE, I can now tell you that there may be alight at the end of the tunnel concerning my eye condition. The prism glasses did not work, but I have since seen a specialist in ophthalmological neurology at the University of Maryland Medical School. He confirmed that my impairment is an injury to the fourth cranial nerve, the one which controls the right oblique muscle in my right eye. However, no surgery is recommended. In the classical case, the nerve recovers sometime between four to ten months after the injury. In my case, it's already been 4½ months since the accident. In the event the recovery does not occur by the six-month mark, they can inject a substance into the opposing muscle which would, in effect, "cure" me for a matter of about 8 weeks by weakening this other muscle. Hopefully, by the time those 8 weeks would have elapsed, the healing process would have taken place. Since I'm not exactly anxious to have people ramming needles into my eye, I've decided to wait for another two months to see whether my condition improves on its own. Stand by for the next thrilling episode of "The Perils of Fred," or "The One-Eyed Man is King."

The next issue should be out sometime around July 15th, unless we're away on a vacation trip, in which case it will appear later.

#

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FIRST CLASS MAIL